THE BLACKE BOOKE:

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George Stevens.

THE EPISTLE to the Reader.

OR

The true Character of this Booke.

TO all thoſe that are truly Vertuous, and can touch Pitch and yet neuer defile themſelues: reade the miſchieuous liues & pernicious practiſes of Villaines, and yet be neuer the worſe at the end of the Booke, but rather confirmde the more in their honeſt Eſtates, and the vprightnes of their Vertues: To ſuch I dedicate my ſelfe, the wholeſome intent of my labours,

the modeſtie of my Phraſes, that euen bluſh when they diſcouer Vices, and vnmaske the worlds ſhadowed villanies: And I account him as a Traytor to Vertue, who diuing into the deepe of this cunning Age, and finding there ſuch Monſters of Nature, ſuch ſpeckled lumps of poyſon, as Pandars, Harlots, and Ruffians do figure, if hee riſe vp ſilent again, and neither diſcouer or publiſh them to the ciuil Ranck of ſober and continent Liuers, who thereby may ſhunne thoſe two deuouring Gulfes: to wit, of Deceit and Luxury, which ſwallow vp more Mortals, thē *Scylla* and *Charibdis*, thoſe two Cormorants & Woolners of the Sea, one tearing, the other deuouring: Wherefore I freely perſwade my ſelfe, no vertuous ſpirit, or Iudiciall Worthy, but will approue my politick Morrall, wherevnder the ſhadow of the Diuels Legacies, or his bequeathing to Villaines, I

ſhip

ſtrip their villanies naked, and bare the infectious Bulkes of Craft, Cooſnage, and Pandariſme, the three Blood-houndes of a Common-wealth: And thus farre I preſume, that none will or can except at this which I call the *Black Booke* (becauſe it doubly Damnes the Diuel) but ſome tainted Harlot, Noſeleſſe Bawde, obſceane Ruffian, & ſuch of the ſame blacke Nature, and filthy Condition, that poyſon the towardly Spring of Gentilitie, and corrupt with the mud of miſchiefs the pure & cleare ſtreames of a Kingdome: And to ſpurgall ſuch, who reades me ſhall know I dare, for I feare neither the Rats-bane of a Harlot, nor the Ponyard of a Villaine.

T. M.

A Morall.

Lucifer *aſcending, as Prologue to his owne Play.*

NOw is Hell landed here vpon the Earth,
When *Lucifer* in limbes of burning gold
Aſcends this duſtie *Theater* of the world,
To ioyne his powers: and were it numbeed well,
There are more Diuells on Earth then are in Hell.
Hence ſprings my damned ioy, my torturde ſpleene
Melts into mirthfull Humour at this Fate,
That heauen is hung ſo high, drawne vp ſo farre,
And made ſo faſt, naylde vp with many a Starre.
And Hell the very ſhop-borrd of the Earth,
Where when I cut out ſoules, I throw the ſhreds
And the white linings of a new-ſoyld Spirit,
Pawnde to luxurious and adulterous merit.
Yea, that's the ſinne, and now it takes her turne,
For which the world ſhall like a Strumpet burne:
And for an Inſtance to fire falſe imbraces,
I make the world burne now in ſecret places,
I haunt inuiſible corners as a Spie,
And in adulterous Circles there riſe I:

A Morall.

There am I coniur'd vp through hote deſire,
And where Hell riſes there muſt needs be fire:
And now that I haue vaulted vp ſo hye
A boue the Stage-rayles of this earthen Globe,
I muſt turne Actor, and ioyne Companies
To ſhare my Comick ſleek-eyde villanies.
For I muſt weaue a thouſand ills in one,
To pleaſe my blacke and burnt affection:
Why? euery Tearme-time I come vp, to ſowe
Diſſention betwixt Plough-men, that ſhould ſowe
The Fields vaſte wome, and make the harueſt growe:
So comes it oft to paſſe deare yeares befall,
When Plough-men leaue the Field to till the Hall:
Thus Famine and bleake dearth do greet the Land,
When the Plough's held betweene a Lawyers hand.
I fat with ioy to ſee how the poore Swaines
Do boxe their Country-thyes, carrying their Packets
Of writings, yet can neither reade nor write,
They're like to Candles if they had no light:
For they're darke within, in ſence and iudgement,
As is the Hole at *Newgate*, and their thoughts
Are like the men that lye there without ſpirit,
This ſtrikes my black ſoule into rauiſhing Muſicke.

To

A Morall.

To ſee Swaynes plod and ſhake their ignorant ſkuls:
For they are nought but ſkul, their braine but Burre,
Wanting wits marrowe and the ſap of Iudgement;
And how they grate with their hard nayly ſoales
The ſtones in *Fleet-ſtreete*, and ſtrike fire in *Powles:*
Nay, with heir theauie Trot, and yron-ſtalke,
They haue worne off the braſſe in the mid-walke.
But let theſe paſſe for Bubbles and ſo die,
For I riſe now to breath my Legacie:
And make my laſt Will, which I know ſhall ſtand,
As long as Bawde, or Villaine ſtrides the Land.
For which Ile turne my ſhape quite out of Verſe,
Mou'd with the Supplication of poore *Pierce*,
That writ ſo rarely villanous from hence,
For ſpending money to my Excellence:
Gaue me my Titles freely, for which giuing,
I riſe now to take order for his Lining.
The blacke Knight of the Poſte ſhortly reternes
From Hell, where many a *Tabacc'miſt* burnes:
With newes to ſmoaky Gallants, Ryotous Heires,
Strumpets that follow Theators and Faires,
Gilded-noſde Vſurers, baſe mettald Pandars
To Copper Captaines, and *Pickt-hatch* Commanders.

A Morall.

To all infectious Catch-poles through the Towne,
The very ſpeckled vermin of a crowne:
To theſe and thoſe, and euery damned one,
Ile bequeath Legacies to thriue vpon:
Amongſt the which, Ile giue for his reduelle,
A ſtanding Penſion to *Pierce-Pennileſſe*.

THE

THE BLACKE Booke.

NO sooner was Peirce-Pennilesse breathed forth, but I the Light-burning Seriant Lucifer, quencht my fiery shape, and whipt into a Constables night gowne, the cunningst habite that could be, to search Tipple Tauerns, reeling Innes, and frothy Ale houses, when calling together my worshipfull Bench of Bill-men, I proceeded toward Pickt-hatch, intending to beginne their first, which (as I may fitly name it) is the very shirts of all Brothel-houses; the watchmen poore Night-crowes followed, and thought still they had had the Constable by the hand, when they had the diuell by the Gowne-sleeues: at last I looking by to the casements of euery suspected mansion, and spying a light twinckling, betweene hope and desperation, gessed it to be some sleepie snuffe, euer and anon winking and nodding in the socket of a Candlestick, as if the flame had bene a departing from the greasie body of Simon Snuffe the Stinckard: whereupon I the blacke Constable commanded my white Guard, not onely to assist my Office with their browne Billes, but to raise vp the hous extemporie: with that the dreadful watch men hauing authority,

ſtanding by them, thundred at the doore, whilſt the Candle lightned in the Chamber, and ſo betweene thundring and lightning, the Bawde rizze, firſt putting the Snuffe to an vntimely death, a cruell and a lamentable murther, and then with her fat-fag-chinne hanging downe like a Cowes Vdder, lay racking out at the windowe, demaunding the reaſon why they did ſummon a Parly: I told her in plaine tearmes, that I had a warrant to ſearch, from the Sheriffe of Limbo; How? from the Sheriffe of Lime-ſtreete replyed Piſtreſſe Wimble-chinne, (for ſo ſhe vnderſtood the word Limbo, as if Limbo had bene Latten for Lime-ſtreete) why then all the doores of my houſe ſhall flye open and receiue you Maiſter Conſtable: with that, as being the watch word, two or three vaulted out of their beddes at once, one ſwearing ſtockes and ſtones, he could not finde his ſtockins, other that they could not hit vpon their falſe bodies, when to ſpeake troath and ſhame my ſelfe, they were then as cloſe to their fleſh as they could, and neuer put them off ſince they were twelue yeare old: At laſt they ſhuffled vp, and were ſhut out at the back-part, as I came in at the North part, vp the ſtayres I went to examine the Feather-beddes, and carrie the ſheetes before the Juſtice, for there was none elſe then to carrie, onely the ſlowze was ſtrewde with Baſke-pointes, like Carters, and ſhoe-ſtrings, leaſtred here and there for haſt to make away from me, and the farther ſuch runne, the nearer they come to me: then another doore opening rere-ward, there came puffing out of the next roome a villainous Leiſtenant without a Band, as if his head béene new cut downe, like one at Wapping, with his cruell Garters about his

Necke,

Necke, which filthy resembled two of Dericks Neckelaces: hee had a head of hayre like one of my Diuells in Docter Faustus, when the olde Theater crackt and frighted the Audience; His Browe was made of course Branne, as if all the Flower had beene boulted out to make honester men, so ruggedly moulded with chops and creuises, that I wonder how it heldē together, had it not beene pasted with villany; His eye-browes ietted out like the round casement of an Aldermans dining-roome, which made his eyes looke as if they had bene both damned in his head: for if so bee two soules had bene so farre suncke into Hell-pittes, they would neuer haue walkt abroade againe: His Nosthrills were cousen Germans to Currall, though of a softer condition, and of a more relenting humour; His Crowe-blacke Muchatoes, were almost halfe an Ell from one end to the other, as though they would whisper him in the eare about a cheate or a murther: and his whole face in generall, was more detestable ougly then the visage of my grim Porter Cerberus, which shewed that all his body besides was made of filthy Dust, and Seacole ashes: A downe countenance he had, as if he would haue lookte thirty mile into Hell, and seene Sisyphus rowling, and Ixion spinning and reeling: thus in a payre of hoary Slippers, his stockins dengling about his wrists, and his read Buttons like Foxes out of their holes, he began like the true Campion of a vaulting-house, first to fray me with the Bug-beares of his rough-cast beard, and then to sound base in mine eares, like the Beare-garden Drum, and this was the humour he put on, and the very apparell of his Phrases! Why? maister Constable, dare you bawke vein our owne mansion? ha!

What

What is not our house our Cole-harbour, our Castle of come-downe, and lye-downe? must my honest wedded Punck here, my glorie-fatte Awdry be taken napping, and raisd vp by the thunder of Bil-men? are we disanuld of our first sleepe? and cheated of our dreames and fantasies? Is there not Law to for stealing away a mans slumbers, as well as for theetes off from hedges? Come you to search an honest Bawdie-house, this seuen and twentie yeares in fame and shame? goe to then, you shall search; nay, my very Botes too: are you well now? the least hole in my house too, are you pleasde now? can we not take our ease in our Inne, but we must come out so quickly? Nawd, goe to bed, sweet Nawd, thou wilt cole thy grease anon, and make thy fat cake. This sayde (by the vertue and vice of my Office) I commanded my Bil-men downe staires, when in a twinckling, discouering my selfe a little, as much as might serue to rellish me, and shew what stuffe I was made off, I came and kist the Bawde, hugde her excellent villanies and cunning rare conueyances, then turning my selfe, I threw mine armes (like a scarffe or Bandaliere) crosse the Leistenants melancholly Bosome, embracst his resolute phrases, and his dissolute humours, highly commending the damnable Trade, and detestable course of their liuing, so excellent filthie, and so admirable villanous! Whereupon this Leistenant of Pickt-hatch, fell into deeper league and farther acquaintance with the blacknesse of my bosome, sometimes calling me Maister Lucifer the Head-borow, sometimes Maister Deuillin, the little blacke Constable. Then telling me, he heard from Limbo the 11. of the last Moneth, and that he had the letter to show, where they were all very mery: marry as he told me, there were some of his friends in Phlegetō,

troubled

troubled with the heart-burning: yea, and with the soule burning to thought I: though thou litle dreamst of the torment: then complaining to me of their bad takings all the last plaguy Sommer, that there was no stirrings, and therefore vndone for want of doings, whereupon after many such inuictions to bring the sceane of his pouerty vppon the Stage, he desired in cole tearmes to borrow some forty pence of me; I stuft with anger at that base and lazie petition; (knowing that a right true villain, and an absolute practized Pandar) could not want siluer damnation, but liuing vpon the Reuenewes of his wits, might purchase the Diuell and all, halfe conquerd with rage thus I replyed to his basenes.

Why? for shame a Bawde and poore? why then let vsurers goe a begging, or like an old Groke stand in Powles with a Porringer? let Brokers become whole honest then, and remoue to heauen out of Hounsditch? Lawyers turne fielesse, and take Ten Ca poore Widowes teares for Terme shillings: Merchants neuer forswears themselues, whose great periurde oaths a Land, turne to great windes and cast away their Ships at Sea: which false perfidious tempest splits their ships abroad, and their soules at home, making the one take salt water, and the other salt fire: let Mercers then haue conscionable Thumbes, when they measure out that smooth glittering Diuell Sattin, and that old Reueller Veluet in the daies of Mounseir, both which haue deuoured many an honest Field of Wheate and Barly, that hath bene metamorphosed and changed into white money; puh, these are but litle

wonders, and may be easily possible in the working; A Usurer to cry bread and meate is not a thing impossible, for indeed your greatest Usurer is your greatest Begger, wanting as well that which he hath, as that which he hath not: then who can be a greater Begger? he will not haue his house smell like a Cookes shop, and therefore takes an order no meate shall be drest in it, and because there was an House vpon Fish-streete Hill burnt to the Ground once, hee can abide by no meanes to haue a fire in his Chimny euer since: to the confirming of which, I will insert here a pretie conceit of a nimble-wittied Gentlewoman, that was worthy to be Ladyfied for the Iest, who entring into a Usurers House in London, to take vp mony vpon vnmercifull Interest, for the space of a Twelvemoneth, was conducted through two or three hungry roomes into a faire dining Roome, by a Lenten faced Fellow, the Usurers man, whose Nose showde as if it had bene made of hollow Past-board, and his Checks like two thin Pancakes clapt together: A pittifull knaue he was, and lookte for all the world as if meale had bene at twentie shillings a Bushell: the Gentlewoman being placed in this faire Roome to awaite the Usurers leysure, who was casting vp Ditches of Golde in his Counting-house, and being almost frozen with standing (for it was before Kandle-mas Frost-bitten Tearme) euer and anon turning about to the Chimney where shee sawe a paire of Corpulent Giganticall Andiorns that stood like two Burgomasters at both corners, a Harth briskly drest vp, and a great cluster of Charcoale pilde vp together like blacke Pudoings, which laye for a

dead

dead fire, and in the dyning Roome too: the Gentlewoman wondring it was so long a kindling, at last shee caught the miserable conceit of it, and calling her man to her, bad him seeke out for a piece of Chalke, or some peeling of a white Wall, whilest in the meane time shee conceited the Deuice, when taking vp the fire former Coales one after another, shee chalkt apon each of them a Satyricall Letter, which fire were these.

T. D. C. R. V. S.

Explainde thus:

These Dead Coales, Resemble Vsurers Soules.

Then placing them in the same order againe turning the chalkt sides inward to try conclusions, which as it happened, made vp the Jest the better, by that time the Vsurer had done amongst his golden heapes, and entertaining the Gentlewoman with a Cough a quarter of an houre long, at last after a rotten Hawke and a Hem, he began spit and speake to her: To conclude, she was furnished of the money for a twelue-moneth, but vpon large securitie and most Tragicall Vsury, when keeping her day the Twelue-moneth after, comming to repaie both the mony and the breede of it.

(For Interest may well be calde the Vsurers Bastard) shee found the Hearth drest vp in the same

order with a dead fire of charcole againe, and yet the Thames was halfe frozen at that time with the bitternes of the season: when turning the foremost ranke of coales, determining againe as it seemd to drawe some petty knauery vppon them too, shee spyed all those fine Letters which shee chalkt vppon them the twelvemonth before, and never a one furder or displaced: the strange sight of which, made her breake into these words. Is it possible quoth she a Usurer should burne so little here, and so much in Hell? or is it the colde propertie of these Coales to be above a twelvemonth a kindling? so much to shewe the frozen Charity of a Usurers Chimney.

And then a Broaker to be an honest soule, that is, to take but sixpence a month, and three pence for the Bill making: a Diuell of a very good conscience? possible too, to have a Lawyer bribelesse and without Fee if his clyentesse or female clyent please his eie wel, a Merchant to weare a suite of periury but once a quarter, or so: mistake me not, I meane not foure times an howre, that shift were too short, hee could not put it on so soone I thinke: and lastly, not impossible for a mercer to have a Thombe in Folio, like one of the biggest of the Quard, and so giue good and very bountifull measure: but which is most impossible to be a right Bawde and poore, it strikes my spleene into bulnes: and turnes all my blood into cole lead; Wherefore was vice ordained but to bee rich, shining and wealthy, seeing vertue her opponent is poore, ragged, and needy? those that are poore

are

are timorous honeſt, and ſwilth harmeleſſe, as your carroling Sheepheards, whiſtling Plough-men, and ſuch of the ſame innocent Rancke, that never reliſh the blacke Juice of villanie, never taſte the red ſwde of murther, or the damnable ſockets of Luxurie: whereas a Pandar is the very ayle of Villanies, and the ſtroppe of Rogues; of excellent Rogues I meane, ſuch as haue purchaſde fiue hundreds a yeare by the Talent of their Villanie: how many ſuch Gallants doe I knowe, that liue onely vppon the reuenewe of their wittes: ſome whoſe Braynes are aboue an hundred mile about, and thoſe are your Geometricall Theeues, which may fitly be called ſo, becauſe they meaſure the high-wayes with falſe Dalleps, and therefore are Heires of more Acres then fiue and fiftie elder Brothers: ſometimes they are Clarkes of Newe-market Heathe, ſometimes the Sheriffes of Salisburie Plaine; and another time they commit Brotherlye, when they make many a man ſtand at Hockley in the Hole. Theſe are your great head Land lords indeed, which call the word Robbing, the gathering in of their Rents, and name all Paſſengers their Tenants at Will.

Another ſet of delicate Knaues there are, that dine into Dices and Mixtings of Landes, left to young Oaſi-Finches, poyſoning the true ſence and intent of them, with the mercuriall Antimonie of the Common Lawe, and ſo by ſome craftie Clawe or two, ſhoue the true ſwlith Owners quite beſide the Saddle of their Patrimonies, and then they hang onely by the Stirrops: that is, by the colde Almes and

freezen charitie of the Gentlemen-defeaters; (who if they take after me their great Grandfather) will rather stampe them downe in the deepe mire of pouertie, then bolster vp their heads with a poore wispe of charitie: such as theis corrupt the true meanings of last Willes and Testaments: and turne Legacies the wrong way, wresting them quite awrie like Grauntum Steeple.

The third Rancke (quainter then the former) presents vs with the Race of lustie Vaulting Gallants, that in stead of a French Horse practise vppon their Pistrelles all the nimble Trickes of Vaulting, and are worthy to be made Dukes for doing the Somerset so finely.

This Neast of Gallants, for the naturall parts that are in them, are maintainde by their Drawne-worke Dames, and their imbroidered Pistrelles, and can dispend their two thousand a yeare out of other mens Coffers: keepe at euery heele a man, beside a French Lackey, (a great Boy with a beard) and an English Page, which fills vp the place of an Ingle: they haue their Citie-horse (which I may well tearme their Stone-horse) or their Horse vppon the Stones: For indeed, the Citie being the lusty Dame and Pistrelle of the Land, layes all her foundation vpon good Stone-workes, and some body payes well for it, where euer it lights, and might with lesse cost keepe London Bridge in reparations euery fall, then Pistrelle Briget his wife; for Women and Bridges alwayes lacke mending; and what the aduantage of one Tide performes, comes another tyde presently & washes away.

Those

Those are your Gentlemen Gallants, that seeth vppermost, and neuer lin gallopping, till they runne ouer into the fire, so gloriously accoultred, that they rauish the eyes of all Wantons, and take them prisoners in their shops with a briske sute of Apparell: they strangle and choake more Veluet in a deepe gathered Hose, then would serue to line through my Lord what call ye-hims Coach.

What neede I inferre more of their prodigall glistrings, and their spangled damnations? when these are Arguments sufficient to shew the wealth of sinne, and howe rich the Sonnes and Heires of Tartarie are: And are these so glorious so florishing, so brimfull of golden Lucifers or light Angelles, and thou a Pandar and poore? A Bawde and emptie, appareld in villainous Pack-thread, in a wicked Sute of course Hoppe-bagges, the wings and skirts faced with the ruines of Dish-cloutes? Fie, I shame to see thee drest vp so abhominable scurrie. Complaynst thou of bad doings, when there are Harlots of all Trades, and Knaues of all Languages? Knowest thou not, that sinne may bee committed, either in French, Dutch, Italian, or Spanish, and all after the English fashion: But thou excuse the negligance of thy practize by the last Sommers Pestilence: Alas, poore Skark-Gull, that put off is idle: for Seriant Carbuncle, one of the Plagues chiefe Officers, dares not venture within three yardes of an Harlot, because Mounseir Dry-bone the French-man, is a Ledger before him. At which speech, the Slaue burst into a melancholy Laugh, which shewde for all the

world

world like a sadde Tragedie with a Clowne int: and thus began to reply.

I knowe not whether it be a Crosse or a Curse, (noble Philippe of *Phlegeton*) or whether both, that I am forced to pinck foure Elles of Bagge to make mee a Summer suite, but I protest, what with this long Vacation, and the sidging of Gallants to Norfolke, and vp and downe Countries, *Pierce* was neuer so Pennilesse, as poore Lieutenant Frig-beard.

With those werds he put mee in minde of him for whom I chiefly changed my selfe into an officious Constable, poore *Pierce-Pennilesse*: when presently I demaunded of this Leinctenant the place of his abode, and when hee last heard of him (though I knew well enough both where to heare of him, and finde him) to which hee made answere. Who? *Pierce*, honest *Pennilesse*? hee that writ the Mad-cappes Supplication: why, my very next Neighbour, lying within three leane houses of mee, at olde Mistresse Siluerpinnes, the onely doore-keeper in Europe. Why? we meete one another euery Terme time, and shake hands when the Exchequer opens, but when we open our hands, the Diuell of Penny we can see.

With that I cheerde vp the drooping Slaue, with the Aqua-vitæ of vi lanie, and put him in excellent comfort of my damnable Legacie: saying, I would stuffe him with so many wealthy instructions, that hee should excell euen *Pandarus* himselfe, and goe nine mile beyonde him in Pandarisme, and from thence forward he should neuer know a true Rascall goe vnder his red Veluet flops; and a gallant Bawde indeed,

indéed belowe her loose bodied-Sattin?

This saide, the slaue hugd himselfe and buff the Bawde for ioy, when presently I left them in the midst of their wicked Smack, and descended to my Bil men that waited in the pernitious Alley for me their Maister Constable: and marching forward to the third Garden-house, there we knockt vp the Ghost of mistresse Siluer-pin, who suddainly risse out of two white shéetes, and acted out of her tyring-house windowe, but hauing vnderstood who we were, and the Authoritie of our office, shée presently eneu in her Ghosts apparell, vnfolded the Doores, and gaue me my free enterance, when in policie I chargde the rest to stay and watch the house belowe, whilst I stumbled vp two payre of stayres in the darke, but at last caught in mine eyes the sullen blaze of a melancholy lampe, that burnt very tragically vppon the rarrow Deske of a halfe Bedstead, which descryed all the pittifull Ruines throughout the whole chamber, the bare priuities of the stone-walls were hid with two pieces of painted Cloth; but so ragged and tottreb, that one might haue séene all neuerthelesse, hanging for all the world like the two men in Chaynes betwéene Mile-end & Hackney; The Testerne or the shadow, ouer the bed, was made of foure Elles of Cobwebs, and a number of small Spinners Ropes hung downe for Curtaines; the Spindle-shanke Spyders which showd like great Leachers with little legges, went stalking ouer his head, as if they had bene conning of Tamburlayne. To conclude, there was many such sights to be séene and all vnder a Pennie, beside

the lamentable prospect of his hose and doublet, which being of old Kendall Greene, fitly resembled a Pitche Ficide, vppon which trambled many a lusty Corporal: in this vnfortunate Tyring-house lay poore Pierce vppon a Pillow stuft with Horsemeate, the sheetes smudged so durtily, as if they had bene stolne by night out of Saint Pulchers Church-yard when the Sexton had left a Graue open, and so laide the dead bodies wrong-ward: the Coverlet was made of pieces a blacke Cloth clapt together, such as was scatterd off the railes in Kings-Streete, at the Queenes Funerall: vpon this miserable Beds-head, lay the old Copy of his Supplication in foule written hand which my blacke Knight of the Post conveyed to Hell: which no sooner I entertayned in my hand, but with the rattling and blabbing of the papers, poore Pierce began to stretch and grate his Nose against the hard Pillowe, when after a Rowze or two, he muttred these railing words betweene drunke and sober, that is, betweene sleeping and waking.

I should laugh plaine, if for all this I should prove a Vsurer before I die, and haue neuer a Penny now to set vp withall, I would build a Nunnery in Pickt-hatch here, and turne the walke in Powles into a Bowling Alley; I would haue the Thames leaded ouer, that they might play at Corny-holes, with the Arches vnder London-Bridge. Well, and with that he wakte, the diuell is a mad Knaue still.

How now Pierce, (quoth I) doest thou call me Knaue to my face? Whereat the poore slaue starte vp with his haire a tip-toe, to whom by easie degrees, I gently

gently discouered my [illegible], who trembling like the trebis of a Lute, vnder the heauie finger of a Farmers daughter, craued pardon of my damnable Excellence, and gaue me my Titles as freely, as if he had knowne where all my Lordships lay, & how many Acres there were in Tartarie: but at the length hauing recouered to be bold againe, he vnfolded all his bosome to me, told me that the Knight of Periurie had lately brought him a fained Letter, sent from a damned Friend of his: Which was thus directed, As followeth.

The Blacke Booke.

From Stix to Woods-close,

OR

The Walke of Pickt-hatch.

AFter I saw poore Penniless grow so well acquainted with me, and so familiar with the villany of my humour, I unlockt my determinations, and laide open my intents in particulars, the cause of my uprising being moued both with his penetrable petition and his insufferable pouerty, and therefore changed my shape into a litle wapper-eid Constable, to winke and blinke at small faults, and through the policy of searching, to finde him out the better in his cleanly Tabernacle, and therefore gaue him encouragement now to be frolike, for the time was at hand like a Pickpurse, that Pierce should be cald no more *Penniless*, like the Maiors bench at Oxford, but rather *Pierce-Penny-fist*, because his palme shall be pawnde with Pence. This sayd, I bad him be resolude, and get vp to Breake-fast, whilst I went to gather my Mopis of Villaines together, and made his lodging my Conuocation house: with that in a resulting humour, he calde his Hose and Doblet to him, (which could almost goe alone, borne like a Horse vpon the Legges of Vermin) whilst I thumpt downe staires with my Cowe-hele, imbraced Mistresse Siluer-pinne, and betooke me to my Bill men: when

in a twinckling before them all, I leapt out of Maister Constables Night-gowne, into an Vsurers fustie furde Jacket, whereat the Watch-men staggered, and all their Billes fell downe in a sownde: when I walkte close by them laughing and coughing like a rotten-lungde Vsurer, to see what Italian faces they all made, when they mist their Constable, and saw the blacke Gowne of his Office lye full in a puddle.

Whell, away I scudded in the mustie moth-eaten habit, and being vpon Exchange time, I crowded my selfe amongst Merchants, poysoned all the Burse in a minute, and turnd their Faiths and Troths, into Curds and whaye, making them sweare those things now, which they for-swore when the Quarters strucke againe: for I was present at the clapping vp of every Bargaine, which did nere hold, no longer then they helde handes together: there I heard newes out of all Countries, in all Languages; how many Villanies were in Spaine: how many Lusts in Italie: how many Perills in France: and how many Role-pots in Germanie.

At last I met at halfe turne, one whom I had spent mine eyes so long for, an hoarie money-maister, that had beene off and on some five and fifte yeares daunde in his Counting-house, for his onely recreation was but to hop about the Burse before twelue, to heare what newes from the Bancke, and howe many Merchants were bankrout the last change of the Moone. This ramish Penny-father I rounded in the left Eare, winded in thy intent, the place and

houre: Which no ſooner hee lucke in, but hee ſmilde vppon me in French, and replyed:

O Mounſeir Deiable.
Ile be chiefe Gueſt at your Table,

With that we ſhooke handes: and as we parted, I bade him bring Maiſter Cog-hill the Scrimener along with him, and ſo I vaniſht out of that vprling. And paſſing through Burchen-lane, amidſt a Campe Royall of Hoſe and Doublets, (Maiſter Snips backſide being turnde where his face ſtood) I take excellent occaſion to ſlip into a Captaines ſuite, a valiant Waſte, Doublet, ſtuft with Points like a Legge of Mutton with Parſlye, and a payre of Velure ſlops, ſcored thicke with Lace, which ranne round about the Hoſe like Ring-wormes, able to make a man ſcratch where it itcht not. And thus accoultred, taking vp my weapons a truſt in the ſame order, at the next Cutlers I came to, I marcht to Maiſter Bezles Ordinary, where I found a whole dozen of my damned crue ſweating as much at Dice, as many poore Laborers doe with the caſting of Ditches: when preſently I ſet in a ſtake amongſt them: round it went; but the craftie Dice having pearct vppon me once, knew who I was well enough, and would neuer haue their little blacke eyes off a me all the while after; at laſt came my turne about, the Dice quaking in my Fiſt before I threw them; but when I yerkt them forth, away they ranne like Iriſh Lackeys, as farre as their

their bones would suffer them.

I sweeping vp all the Stakes that lay vppon the Table: whereat some stampt, others swore, the rest curst, and all in generall fretted to the Gaull, that a new Commer (as they tearmed me) should gather in so many Fisteenes at th first vomit.

Well, thus it past on, the Dice running as false as the Drabbes in White-Fryers, and when any one thought himselfe surest, in came I with a lurching cast, and made them all sweare round againe: But such Gunne pomder Oathes they were, that I wonder haw the Seeling held together without spitting Morter vppon them. Townes, Captaine swore one to mee, I thinke the Diuell be thy good Lorde and Maister: True, (thought I) and thou his Gentleman-Vsher. In conclusion, it fatted mee better then twentie eighteene-pence Ordinaries, to here them rage, curse and sweare, like so many Emperours of Darkenesse. And all these twelue, were of twelue seuerall Crmpanies.

There was your Gallant extraordinary Thiefe, that keepes his Colledge of Good-Fellowes, and will not feare to robbe a Lord in his Coach for all his tenne Trencher-bearers on horse-back, your deepe conceited Cut purse, who by the dexteritie of his knife will draw out the money, and make a flame colourd-purse shew like the bottomlesse pit, but with neuer a soule int: Your cheating Bowler that will bancke false of purpose, and loose a game of twelue-pence to purchase his

Partner

Partner twelue shillings in Bettes, and so share it after the Play. Your Chenerell-gutted Catch-pole, who like a Horse-litch suckes Gentlemen, and in all your twelue Tribes of Villanie, who no sooner vnderstood the quaint forme of such an vncustomed Legacie, but they all pawnde their vitious Golles to meete there, at the houre prefixt: and to confirme their resolution the more, each slipt downe his Stockin, baring his right Knee, and so began to drinke a Health, halfe as deepe as Mother Hubburds Celler: She that was calde in for selling her working Bottle-Ale to Booke-binders, and spurting the Froth vpon Courtiers Noses. To conclude, I was their onely Captaine, (for so they pleasde to title mee) and so they all rizze, *Poculis manibusque*, applauding my newes: then the houre being more then once and once reiterated, we were all at our hands againe, and so departed.

I could tell nowe, that I was in many a second House in the Cittie and Suburbs afterward, where my entertainment was not barren, nor my welcome Cheape or Ordinarie. And then howe I walkte in Powles to see fashions; to diue into villainous meetings, pernitions Plots, blacke Humours, and a Million of mischiefes, which are bred in that Cathedrall Wombe, and borne within lesse then forty weekes after. But some moy obiect and say; What doth the Diuell walke in Powles theu? Why not, Sir, aswell as a Seriant, or a Ruffian, or a Murtherer: may not the Diuell I pray you walke in Powles

as

as well as the Horse goe a toppe of Powles, for I am sure I was not farre from his Keeper. Puh, I doubt where there is no doubt, for there is no true Criticke indeede, that will carpe at the Diuell.

Now the Houre posted on-ward to accomplish the effects of my desire, to gorge euery Vice full of poyson, that the soule might burst at the last, and vomit out her selfe vppon blew cakes of Brimstone. When returning home (for the purpose, in my Captaynes apparell of Buffe and Veluet) I strucke mine Hostesse into admiration at my proper appearance, for my Poh, foote was helpt out with Bumbast. A propertie whicht many worldings vse, whose Toes are dead and rotten, and therefore so stuffe out their Shoes, like the corners of Wooll-Packes.

Well, into my Tyring-house I went, where I had scarce shifted my selfe into the Apparell of my last Will and Testament, (which was the Habite of a couetous Barne-cracking Farmer) but all my Striptlings of Perdition, my Nephewes of Damnation: my Kindred and alliance of Villany and Sharking, were ready before the houre, to receiue my Bottomlesse Blessing. When entring into a Countrey Night-Gowne, with a Cappe of sicknesse about my browes, I was led in betweene *Pierce-Pennilesse*, and his Hostesse, like a feeble Farmer, ready to depart England, and sayle to the Kingdome of Tartarie: who setting mee downe in a wicked Chaire, all my pernitious Kins-folkes round about mee, and the

Scrimmer betweene my legges (for hee loues al-wayes to sit in the Diuells Cot-house) thus with a whay countenance, short stooppes, and earthen dampish-boyce, the true Counterfets of a dying Cullian, I proceeded to the blacke Diuer of my Legacies.

The

The last Will and *Testament of* Lawrence Lucifer, the old Batchiler *of Limbo.*

ALIAS,

Dicke Deuill-Barne, the griping Farmer of *Kent.*

IN the Name of Bezle-bub, Amen.

I Lawrence Lucifer, *alias*, Dicke Deuil-Barne, sicke in soule but not in body, being in perfect health to wicked memorie: Doe constitute and Ordaine this my last Will and Testament irrevocable, as long as the world shall be trampled on by Villanie.

Inprimis, I Lawrence Lucifer, bequeath my soule to Hell, and my bodie to the Earth, amongst you all, diuide mee and share me equally, but with as much wrangling as you can, I pray: and it will be the better if you goe to Law for me.

As touching my worldly-wicked Goods, I giue and bequeath them in most villanous order following.

First, I constitute and Ordaine, Leiuetenant Frig-beard, Arch-Pander of England, my sole Heire, of all such Lands, Closes and Gappes, as lie within the Boundes of my gift: beside, I haue certaine Houses, Tenements, and with drawing Roomes in Shoreditch, Tunbold-streete, White-Fryers, and Westminster: which I freely giue and bequeath to the aforesayde Leiuetenant, and the base Heires truely begotte of his villanous body: with this Prouiso, that hée sell none of the Land when hée lacks money; nor make away any of the Houses to impaire and weaken the Stocke, no not so much as to alter the propertie of any of them, which is to make them honest against their willes, but to traine and muster his wittes vpon the Mile-ende of his Mazard, rather to fortifie the Territories of Tunbold-street, and enrich the Countie of Pickt-Hatch, with all his vitious Endeuours: golden Enticements, and damnable Practises. And Leiutenant, thou must diue (as thou vsest to doe) into Landed Nouices, who haue onely wit to be licorish and no more, that so their Tenants trotting vp to London with with their Quartridges, they may pay them the rent, but thou and thy Colledge shall receiue the money.

Let no yong rigle-eyde Damosell (if her years haue strucke twelue once) be left vnassaulted, but it must be thy Office to lay hard seige to her honestie: and to try

if

if the walles of her Mayden-head may be scaled with a ladder of Angells: for one yere of such Wenches will bring in more at yeares ende, then an hundred Acres of the best harrowed Land betweene Detford and Douer: and take this for a Note by the way, you must never walke without your Dewce, or Dewee-Ace of Drabbes, after your Beete-heeles: for when you are abroad you know not what vse you may haue for them. And lastly (if you be well fed by some riotous Gallant) you must practize, (as indeed you doe) to winde out a wanton Veluet-cap and Bodkin from the tangles of her Shoppe, teaching her (you know how) to cast a Cuckolds Mist before the eyes of her Husband, which is, telling him, shee must see her Cozen, new come to Towne: or that shee goes to a womans Labour: when thou knowest well ynough, shee goes to none but her owne: and being set out of the Shoppe, (with her man afore her, to quench the iealouzie of her Husband) shee by thy instructions shall turne the honest simple fellow off, at the next turning, and giue him leaue to see the merry Diuel of Edmunton, or a Woman kild with kindnesse: when his Mistresse is going her selfe to the same murther. Thousand of such inuentions, practizes and deuices, I stuffe thy Trade withall: beside the luxurious meetings at Tauernes, ten pound suppers, and fifteene pound reckonings, made vp afterwards with riotous Egs and Muscadine. All these female vomites, and adulterous Surfets, I giue and bequeath to thee, which I hope thou wilt put in practize with all expedition, after

my decaſe: and to that ende, I ordaine this wholy and ſolely, my onely abſolute, excellent, villanous Heire.

Item, I giue and bequeath to you Gregory Gauntlet, high Theefe on Horſe-backe; all ſuch ſummes of Money, that are nothing due to you, and to receiue them in, whether the Parties be willing to pay you or no. You neede not make many wordes with them, but onely theſe two: Stand, and deliuer; and therefore a true theefe cannot chuſe but be wiſe, becauſe he is a man of ſo very fewe wordes.

I neede not inſtruct you, I thinke Gregorie, about the politicke ſearching of craftie Carryers Packes, or ripping vp the bowells of wide Mantes, and Cloake-baggs, I doe not doubt but you haue already exerciſed them all. But one thing I eſpecially charge you of: the neglect of which makes many of your Religion tender their wine-pipes at Tyburne, at leaſt three Monthes before their day: that if you chaunce to robbe a vertuous Townes-man on Horſe-backe, with his wife vppon a Pillion behind him, you preſently ſpeake them faire to walke a Furne or two at one ſide, where binding them both together like Man and Wife, arme in arme very louingly: Be ſure you tie them hard enough, for feare they breake the bondes of Matrimonie, which if it ſhould fall out ſo, the matter would lie ſore vppon your Neckes the next Seſſions after, becauſe your negligent tying, was the cauſe

eares of that breach betweene them.

Now, as for your Welch Hue and Crie (the onely Nette to catch Theeues in) I knowe you auoyde well ynough, becauſe you can ſhift both your Beardes and your Townes well, but for your better diſguiſing, hence forward I will fit you with a Beard-maker of mine owne: One that makes all the faire haires for my Dinells, and all the Periwigges that are worne by olde Courtiers, who take it for a pride in their balde dayes to weare yallowe Curles on their Foreheads, when one may almoſt ſee the Beanes goe to bed through the chinkes of their faces.

Moreouer Gregorie, becauſe I know thee toward ynough, and thy armes full of feates, I make thee Keeper of Come-Parke; Seriant of Salisburie-Plaine; Warden of the Standing-places; and laſtly, Conſtable of all Heaths, Poles, High-wayes, and Conny-groues: hoping that thou wilt execute theſe Places and Offices as truely, as Dericke will execute his place and Office at Tyburne.

I giue and bequeath to this Dicke Dogge-man, Drawne-Catchpole, (ouer and aboue thy bare-bone Fees, that will ſcarſe hang wicked fleſh on thy backe) all ſuch Purches, Gripes and Squeezes, as may bee wrung out by the fill of extortion.

And becauſe I take pittie on thee, waiting ſo long as thou haſt to doe, ere thou canſt land one

Fare

Fare at the Counter, watching sometimes ten houres together in an Ale-house, euer and anon peeping forth and sampling thy Nose with the red Lattis: let him whosoeuer that falls into thy Clutches at night, pay well for thy standing all day: And couzen Richard when thou hast caught him in the Monstrap of thy libertie with the cheese of thy office, the wire of thy hard fist being clapt downe vpon his Shoulders, and the backe of his estate almost broken to pieces; then call thy cluster of fellow-vermins together, and sit in triumph with thy prisoner at the vpper end of a Tauerne table, where vnder the colour of showing him fauour (as you tearme it) in waiting for Bayle, thou and thy Counter-liche, may swallow downe fixe Gallons of Charnico, and then begin to chafe that he makes you stay so long before Peter Bayle comes: And here it will not be amisse if you call in more wine-suckers, and damne as many Gallons againe; for you know your prisoners ransome will pay for all: this is if the partie be flush now, and would not haue his credit copparde with a scuruey Counter.

Another kinde of rest you haue which is called Shoepenny, that is, when you will be paide for euery stride you take: and if the Channell be dangerous and ruffe, you will not step ouer vnder a Noble: a very excellent Lurch to get vp the price of your legs, betweene Powles-chaine and Ludgate.

But that which likes me beyond measure, is the villanous nature of that arrest which I may fitly tearme by the name of Cog-oulshder, when you clap

a both

a both ſides like old Rowſe in Cornewell, and receiue double Fees both from the Creditor and the Debter, ſwearing by the poſt of your office to ſhoulder-clap the party, the firſt time he lights vpon the Limetwigs of your liberty, when for a litle Aliurers Dyle, you allowe him day by day free paſſage to walke by the wicked precinct of your Holes, and yet you will pimple your ſoules with oathes, till you make them as well fauoured as your faces, and ſweare he neuer came within the verge of your eyelids: nay more, if the Creditor were preſent to ſee him arreſted on the one ſide, and the party you wot on, ouer the way at the other ſide, you haue ſuch quaint ſhifts, prety hindrances, and moſt Lawyer-like delayes ere you will ſet forward, that in the meane time he may make himſelfe away in ſome by Alley, or rush into the Bowells of ſome Tauerne, or drinking ſchoole; or if neither, you will find talke with ſome Sharke-ſhift by the way, and giue him the markes of the partie, who will preſently ſtart before you, giue the Debter Intelligence, and ſo a rotten Fig for the Catchpols. A moſt wittie, ſmooth, and damnable conueyance: many ſuch running deuices bearde in the Reynes of your offices: beſide I leaue to ſpeake of your vnmercifull dragging a Gentleman through Fleet-ſtreete, to the vtter confuſion of his white Feather, and the lamentable ſpattring of his Pearle colour ſtike Stockins, eſpecially when ſome fiue of your balcke Dogges of Newgate are vppon him at once. Therefore ſweete couſen Richard (for you are the neereſt kinſman I haue I

giue and bequeath to you no more then you haue already, for you are so well gorged and stuft with that, that one spoonefull of villanie more, would ouer-lay your stomacke quite, and I feare me make you kicke vp all the rest.

Item, I giue and bequeath to you Benedick Bottomlesse, most deepe Cut-purse, all the benefite of Pageant-dayes, great Market-dayes, Ballat-places, but especially the Sir-Penny Roomes in Play-houses, to Cut, Diue, or Nim, with as much speede, Arte, and dexteritie, as may be handled by honest Rogues of thy qualitie. Nay, you shall not sticke Benedick, to giue a shaue of your Office at Powles Crosse in the Sermon time: but thou holdst it a thing thou mayst doe by law, to cut a Purse in Westminster Hall. True, Beuedicke, if thou be sure the Lawe bee on that side thou cutst it on.

Item, I giue and bequeath to you, old Bias, *Alias*, Humfrey Hollow-banke, true cheating Bowler, and Lurcher, the one halfe of all false Bettes, Cunning Hookes, subtill Tyes, and Crosse-layes, that are ventured vpon the landing of your Bowle, and the safe arriuing at the Hauen of the Mistresse, if it chaunce to passe all the daungerous Rocks and Rubs of the Alley, and be not choackt in the sand, like a Merchants Ship, before it comes halfe way home, which is none of your fault (youle say and sweare) although in your owne turnde-conscience you know, that you threwe it aboue three yards short out of hand, vpon very set purpose.

Moreouer, Humfrey, I giue you the lurching of all

yong

yong Nouices, Citizens sonnes, and Countrey Gentlemen, that are hookt in by the winning of one Twelue-penny Game at first, lost vppon policy, to bee cheated of Twelue-pounds worth-a Bets afterward. And olde *Bias*, because thou art now and then smelt out for a Cosner, I would haue thee sometimes goe disguisde (in honest apparell) and so drawing in amongst Bunglers and ketlers, vnder the plaine Freeze of simplicitie, thou mayst finely couch the wrought-veluet of Knauery.

Item, I giue and bequeath to your Cosen German here, Francis Finger-false, Deputie of Dicing-houses, all cunning Lifts, Shifts, and Couches, that euer were, are, and shall be inuented, from this houre of a Leauen-clocke vpon blacke Munday, vntill it smite Twelue a clocke at Doomes-day: and this I knowe Francis, if you doe endoure to excell, as I know you doe, and will truely practize falsely, you may liue more gallanter farre vppon three Dice, then many of your foolish Heires about London, vppon thrice three hundred Acres.

But turning my Legacie to you-ward, *Barnaby Burning-glasse*, Arch Tabacco-taker of England, in Ordinaryes, vppon Stages both common and priuate, and lastly, in the Lodging of your Drabbe and Mistresse: I am not a little proud, I can tell you Barnaby, that you daunce after my Pipe so long: and for all Counterblasts and Tabacco-Nashes (which some call Raylers) you are not blowne away, nor your fierie thirst quencht with the small Penny-Ale of their

contradictions, but ſtill ſuck that dug of damnation, with a long nipple, ſtill burning that rare Phœnix of Phlegiton Tabacco, that from her aſhes burnt and lincktt out, may ariſe another pipeſull: Therefore I giue and bequeath vnto thee, a breath of all religions, ſaue the true one, and taſting of all countries, ſaue his owne: a brayne well ſoked, where the Pules hang vp in the ſmoake like red Herrings: and loke how the narrow alley of thy pipe ſhewes in the inſide, ſo ſhall all the pipes through thy body. Beſides, I giue and bequeath to thy lungs, as ſmoth as Jet, and full of the ſame colour, that when thou art cloſed in thy graue, the wormes may be conſumed with them, and take them for blacke Puddings.

Laſtly, not leaſt, I giue and bequeath to the Piercepenneleſſe, exceeding poore Scholler, that hath made cleane ſhoes in both Vniuerſities, and bene a pittifull Butler all thy life time, full often heard with this lamentable cry at the Buttry-hatch; Ho Lancelot, a Cewe of bread, and a Cewe of beere, neuer paſſing beyond the confines of a farthing, nor once manching commens, but oncly vpon Gaudy dayes: To the moſt miſerable Pierce, or pierced through and through with miſerie, I bequeath the tythe of all Vaulting Houſes, the tenth penarce of each high paſſe come aloft: beſide the playing in & out of all wenches at thy pleaſure, which I know as thou maiſt vſe it, will be ſuch a ſinent penſion, that thou ſhalt neuer haue nede to write Supplication againe.

Now for the eſpeciall truſt and confidence I haue in

both

both you, Mihell Mony God Usurer, and Leonard Lavender Broker, or pawne-lender, I make you two my full Executors, to the true disposing of all these my hellish intents, wealthy villanies, and most pernicious damnable Legacies.

And now kinsmen and friends, winde about me, my breath begins to coole, and all my powers to fraile. And I can say no more to you Nephewes then I have saide, only this, I leave you all like Rats-bane to poyson the realme. And I pray, be all of you as arrant villaines as you can be, and so farewel, be all hangde, and come downe to me as soone as you can.

This saide, he departed to his moulton kingdome, the winde rifle, the bottome of the Chayre flew out, the Scrivener fell flat upon his mole, and here is the end of a harmelesse Morrall.

FINIS.

Now Syr, what is your cenſure now? you haue read me I am ſure: am I blacke ynough thinke you, dreſt vp in a laſting ſuite of Incke? Do I deſerue my Darke and pitchy Tytle? Sticke I cloſe ynough to a villaines Ribs? Is not *Lucifer* liberall to his Nephewes, in this his laſt *Will* and *Teſtament*? Meethinkes I heare you ſay-nothing: and therefore I knowe you are pleaſde and agree to all: for *Qui tacit conſentire videtur*: And I allow you wiſe, and truly Iudicious, becauſe you keepe your Cenſure to your ſelfe.

FINIS.

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